

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14 and 16-20 are active in the present application. Claims 2, 9, 15 and 21-25 are cancelled claims. Independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 are amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claims 22, 23 and 24 respectively.

No new matter is added.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Independent Claims 1, 8 and 14 now require that the monoalkyl maleate graft polymer of the maleic anhydride/ $\alpha$ -olefin copolymer consist of a maleic anhydride portion, an  $\alpha$ -olefin portion and a monoalkyl maleate portion. Applicants submit that Claims 1, 8 and 14 are now in condition for allowance as evidenced by the Office's indication that the subject matter of Claims 22, 23 and 24 is allowable (see the Office Action of August 31, 2006).

For the reasons stated above, Applicant submits that all now-pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests withdrawal of the rejection and the allowancing of all now-pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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